

ER 61-5866/a

22 JUL 1961

Robert E. Wilson, Esq.

STAT

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I have read with great interest and appreciation the copy you sent me of your letter of July 17th to President Kennedy.

As you have pointed out, it is necessary for us to follow a policy of neither confirming nor denying favorable or unfavorable articles or utterances which appear in the public media about the activities of this Agency. Otherwise, we would disclose information of considerable significance affecting our national security and thereby give aid and comfort to our potential enemies.

I appreciate very much indeed your thoughtful comments and kind words of support.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STAT

O/DCI [ ] :bak(21 July 61)

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61-5866

July 17, 1961.

Honorable J. F. Kennedy,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

RE: Replacement of  
Allan Dulles.

Dear Sir:

This morning's El Paso Times carried, under the Washington date line, an article as to the revision of the Central Intelligence Agency. The article was copyrighted by the New York Times News Service.

I would like to protest the revision of the Central Intelligence Agency and I certainly feel that you should give it extreme consideration prior to making any changes.

I do not know too much about the activities of the mentioned organization other than it is our top civilian Foreign Intelligence Agency and I personally classify it in the same category as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If J. Edgar Hoover had been made a political football during his early administration our national enforcement would have suffered greatly and I feel the same if our Foreign Intelligence and enforcement agency is to be changed after each administration.

I might add that I am a Democrat, quite active in this area, and notwithstanding that Mr. Dulles was appointed by the other party administration I feel under the circumstances, to the extent of my knowledge, he has been doing a very competent job. Possibly there have been mistakes, however, I do not feel that any agency can be of such a nature as to never make any mistakes or errors.

I personally feel that members of the Intelligence Agency are doing one of the greatest services to our

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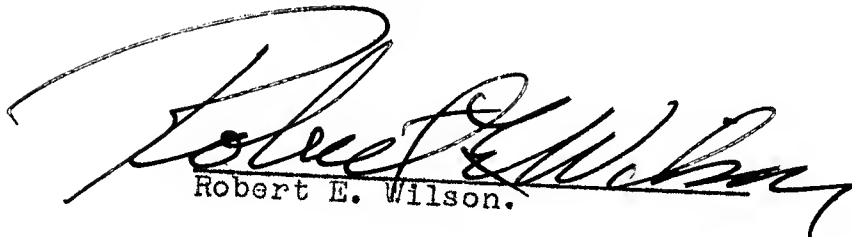
Hon. J. F. Kennedy #2.

7-17-'61

country without any fanfare or "favorable press" as other government agencies are prone to do and have.

It is my feeling that Mr. Dulles should be allowed to continue in his capacity as administrator and that the agency remain civilian rather than military. I feel very strongly about this if these unsung heroes suffer under political whims and fancies, their duties are of such a nature that I feel our nation will suffer in the long run if they are not allowed to operate unhindered in the future.

Yours very truly,



Robert E. Wilson.

✓ cc: Mr . Allan Dulles.

REW/m